Reviewer’s report

Title: Solitary fibrous tumor occurring in the parotid gland: a case report

Version: 0 Date: 07 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Steven Smith

Reviewer's report:

The authors are to be congratulated for a well written review of a case of a solitary fibrous tumor of the parotid gland. This reviewer has reviewed a large number of head and neck solitary fibrous tumors. Having seen the diagnostic and prognostic challenges they often present, I appreciate the stated goals of the case report. It would be improved by inclusion and review of a few additional key aspects of these tumors.

1) The entities of SFT and hemangiopericyoma (HPC, now cellular SFT) have been unified as an entity since the time of the 2002 WHO classification. Remarkably, in recent years, this unification has been supported by identification of a pathognomonic genetic lesion, a fusion of the genes NAB2 and STAT6 by intrachromosomal inversion (e.g. Robinson et al. Nat Gen 2013; Chmielecki et al. Nat Gen 2013), the product of which the authors detect by their STAT6 IHC. Recommend review of these findings.

2) The authors should standardize their labels for immunohistochemical markers (STAT-6 versus STAT6, PS100 versus S100).

3) One of the main issues with the SFT spectrum of tumors is prediction of their clinical behavior. The authors seem not comment on several parameters (mitoses, necrosis, cytologic atypia) thought to be of at least some value in prognostication of progression, or even the baseline criteria for histologic malignancy such as are used in the contemporary WHO classification.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?  
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?  
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English  
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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In the interest of full disclosure, I am author of a manuscript in press that reports a large number of head and neck solitary fibrous tumors, though I do not consider this to in any way compromise my ability to review this manuscript.
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